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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to address you in order to request the official circulation of the Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, dated 13 May 2003, attached herewith (see annex), as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 May 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

[Original: Spanish]

Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba

On 12 May 2003, the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York sent a communication to our Mission to the United Nations, informing it that seven Cuban diplomats had engaged in activities deemed harmful to the United States, outside their official capacity.

The note stated that, unless Cuba provided information to justify a contrary result, the United States would request, within 48 hours, that arrangements be made for the expeditious departure from the United States of the seven members of the Mission and their families. Evidently, that was the first stage in the operation to expel, without any reason, our diplomats from New York.

Later, on 13 May, the United States State Department communicated to our Interests Section in Washington its decision to declare seven Cuban diplomats personae non gratae and give them 10 days to leave the country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejects this new aggressive escalation by the United States Government against our country and our diplomatic missions in Washington and New York.

With these actions, the United States Government proves, once again, that it has openly undertaken a provocative and interventionist course against Cuba.

This arbitrary decision is further proof that, as repeatedly denounced by our Government, a plan against Cuba is being carried out with the aim of sabotaging the immigration agreements, creating a crisis and fostering confrontation between the two countries. The expulsion of the Cuban diplomats is aimed at causing an escalation that would culminate in the closure of the Interests Sections in both countries, as the terrorist groups of the anti-Cuban mafia in Miami have historically sought.

The United States Government seeks to undermine the prestige of Cuban diplomacy, even as it displays its frustration over recent defeats in the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, and in the United Nations Economic and Social Council, where Cuba was again elected by acclamation as a member of the Commission.

The expulsion of 14 Cuban diplomats is an irrational act of vengeance by the United States Government against Cuba. It is a sign of the increasing desperation of the extremist sectors seeking a strengthening of the blockade and new acts of aggression against the people whom they have not been able to bring to their knees after more than 44 years of heroic resistance.

Cuba shall not be intimidated by this or any other provocation. Cuba will not renounce its struggle for independence and sovereignty. Cuba knows that it is in the right and that it can count on the unity and the commitment to struggle of all the people of Cuba.

Cuba will take the necessary time to respond to this new provocation by the United States Government.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13 May 2003